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The Big XII Lives

AUSTIN, Texas — The University of Texas will continue competing in the Big 12 Conference, university officials confirmed today.

The university's commitment was verified by William Powers, Jr., UT president. After examining every facet of a 10-member league from competitive, media, branding and economic perspectives, the university determined it is well-served by membership in the Big 12.

"We believe this decision is in the best interest of our student-athletes, coaches and university constituencies," Powers said. "We are pleased to continue the traditions we have developed with our partners in the Big 12. We are in this 10-team conference for the long-term."

"Our priority all along has been the continuance of the Big 12 Conference. We have worked diligently with other league members and conference staff to assess the strength and future viability of our institutions," said DeLoss Dodds, UT men's athletics director. "The Big 12 served its members well. We move forward with the commitment and confidence of 10 Big 12 universities to ensure the very best academic and athletics opportunities for the student-athletes we support."

"We have been thorough in assessing all of our options," said Chris Plonsky, UT women's athletics director. "After due diligence and deliberation, we believe we are tremendously well-served by the Big 12 Conference. For one, we cherish the preservation of traditional rivalries. We also have assurances that we may continue working toward our goal of establishing a UT television network-channel that would provide additional exposure to our institution, seeded greatly with programming associated with our 20 men's and women's sports programs."

Powers added that the Big 12 is positioned to succeed in a changing collegiate athletics landscape.

"We have great tradition in this



Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium with 100,119 seats will be in the Big 12 for sometime if everything works out for the Conference. (Photo by Jon A. Brake)

league," Powers said. "We've had many national champions, certainly in football and basketball and Olympic sports. We've had very good television ratings. These are all factors that lead us to believe that we have a very

strong future in the new 10-team Big 12."

The University of Texas System Board of Regents does not need to meet to approve this decision.

The Big 12 will consist of Baylor,

Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech.

"I feel really good about where we ended up with this, and about our future," Dodds said. "I feel good about

the relationships between the institutions and the people in the institutions."

Big XII: Saved Situation

By Wendell Barnhouse | wendell@big12sports.com
Big12Sports.com Correspondent

To paraphrase Mark Twain, rumors of the Big 12 Conference's demise are greatly exaggerated.

Two weeks of meetings, rumors, negotiations, teleconferences and the departure of two original members has left the Big 12 with 10 schools that are committed to the Conference. Texas announced late Monday afternoon that it had rejected an invitation to join the Pacific-10 Conference and said it would "continue competing in the Big 12."

Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott issued the following statement: "University of Texas President Bill Powers has informed us that the 10 remaining schools in the Big 12 Conference intend to stay together."

Texas A&M, which had been

rumored to have been interested in the Southeastern Conference, issued the following statement Monday night: "Texas A&M is a proud member of the Big 12 Conference and will continue to be affiliated with the conference in the future."

Oklahoma president David Boren and athletic director Joe Castiglione issued a joint statement: "The decision to stay in the Big 12 represents a consensus position which resulted from a collaborative effort with our colleagues in the conference. We value the strong working relationship that has been reaffirmed during this process among the conference members. We intend to work very hard to make the conference as lasting and dynamic as possible. We appreciate the respect and interest that has been shown to OU during this process."

Kansas State president Kirk Schulz

and athletics director John Currie issued the following statement:

"Obviously, we are buoyed by the commitments of our existing colleagues and league institutions to preserve the Big 12 Conference and its position as one of the nation's top leagues. Our sincere appreciation goes to all of our league partners, and certainly Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe and his staff, for their hard work during this process. Our league has a very bright future and we are looking forward to new levels of growth and opportunity."

And here's a statement from Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw:

"Baylor athletics has a bright future and we look forward to continued success with our historic partners in the Big 12 Conference for many years to come. We have been blessed with extraordinary efforts and leadership

from the Board of Regents, President Starr, key alumni and friends. We are both humbled and grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from the Baylor family in recent days."

Texas has scheduled a news conference for 10 a.m. Tuesday. Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe will hold a teleconference tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m. A meeting of the Texas board of regents scheduled for Tuesday has been canceled.

A dozen days ago, the Big 12 was holding its spring meetings in Kansas City. While those meetings were in progress, a report broke that the Pac-10 planned to invite six Big 12 schools to expand to a 16-team league. Last Thursday, Colorado accepted an invitation to the Pac-10 and the next day Nebraska announced it would move to the Big Ten Conference.

With the Pac-10 and the SEC courting Texas and Texas A&M, there were myriad reports that the Big 12 would dissolve with either four or five teams headed to the Pac-10 and perhaps A&M moving to the SEC.

Over the weekend, Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe worked tirelessly to convince the 10 remaining Conference schools to remain together. The commissioner pointed out the advantage of maintaining regional rivalries and not adding lengthy travel burdens for student-athletes.

But the main weapon in Beebe's arsenal was television. A new cable television deal is expected to increase the Big 12's revenue sharing significantly; each of the Conference's 10 schools could increase their per-team revenue to \$17 million to \$20 million each.

Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 Named To Best High Schools

Manhattan High School has been named one of America's Best High Schools according to Newsweek magazine for the second consecutive year. Manhattan High School is at number 1,334 out of 1,600 high schools. The 2009 rank was 1,462.

Only eight Kansas high schools made the list of 1,600 Top High Schools:

Summer Academy of Arts and Science – number 246

Blue Valley Northwest – number 650

Blue Valley North – number 684

Wichita East - number 841

Shawnee Mission East – number 885

Blue Valley West – number 907

Manhattan – number 1,334

Shawnee Mission South – number 1595

"I would really like to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff of Manhattan High School for this terrific accomplishment," states MHS Principal Terry McCarty. "We are thrilled with this recognition and acknowledgment. It is a direct reflection of the efforts and expectations of the school and the school community."

MHS has a Challenge Index rating of 1.258 this year – a big jump from last year's rating of 1.094. Jay Mathews, contributing editor to

Newsweek and Washington Post education columnist states, "This puts MHS in the top 5 percent of all US public schools rated this way. The data indicate that MHS has a program that makes AP available to a wide range of students which is very important because research shows that many students who struggle in AP and fail the exam still find the experience helps prepare them for college. MHS also has 26 percent of seniors passing at least one AP exam before they graduate, which is well above the 16 percent national average. MHS is one of only eight Kansas schools to make the list this year. Such a splendid school deserves all the support its community can muster."

Newsweek annually surveys and ranks approximately 27,000 high schools across the country. Public schools are ranked according to a ratio devised by Jay Mathews: the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school in 2007 divided by the number of graduating seniors. All of the schools on the list have an index of at least 1.000; they are in the top 5 percent of public schools measured this way. Just over 1600 schools—only six percent of all the public schools in the U.S.—made the list.



Manhattan-Ogden High School one of the top schools in the nation.

Graduate Student Examines Facebook Identity Performance

By Greg Tammen
KSU News Service

If a picture is really worth a thousand words, what do pictures say about us, and more important, what can we make them say about us? Those are the questions one Kansas State University graduate student explored when it came to students and their pictures on Facebook, the social networking site.

For her latest study, Natalie Pennington, graduate student in communication studies, Springfield, Mo., monitored 20 K-State undergraduates' profiles for two months, noting what pictures the students posted and took down and the reasons for these actions. All participants ranged in age from 18-23, with the majority being 18- to 19-year-old females. Pennington had no prior personal connection to the students.

"I felt kind of like a Facebook stalker since I didn't know any of these people except through their pictures," she said.

Pennington said the students weren't dissuaded from posting questionable material despite giving her -- a total stranger -- their consent to study them.

She found the participants, especially in the younger age range, rarely untagged -- removed -- pictures of themselves engaging in illegal behavior or striking provocative poses for the camera. These pictures often portrayed underage drinking or the students in a sexual position. If a picture was untagged, students told Pennington it was not because of who might see it, but because the image was unflattering or didn't represent the image students had of themselves.

"A lot of these digital natives, or net generation - that is, people 18-28 - are used to living in a very connected world because they grew up with the Internet and technology. They're used to cameras being everywhere today, and they just don't think about it," Pennington said.

"In other Facebook studies I've done, I used to notice that people would remove those controversial or risque pictures of themselves because they didn't want their boss or their family or anyone to see them; they tried to make them disappear. These younger people aren't concerned about who sees this information," she said.

Although privacy settings can be selected to filter which content can be seen by strangers, most of the time these settings were left unchanged, allowing strangers like herself to view all the pictures and posted information about the individual, Pennington said. This led to the title of her study, "The No Consequences Generation."

Pennington also found most students chose one a main profile picture based on what they thought conveyed attractiveness.

Females typically use pictures strictly of their face, and often turned their head at an angle because they feel it showcases more flattering features while downplaying negative ones, like ear size or puffy cheeks. Pennington said the females surveyed also believe an angled photo conveys a quirky nature -- a quality they find attractive.

"If a female chose to display a shot of her entire body, she was often in a provocative pose," Pennington said. This included shots of girls with their shoulder

forward and giving the camera a suggestive look. One girl's profile even had a picture of herself in a risque position on a pool table.

Males primarily use pictures of themselves in action or with a group of people. This conveys a sense of fun and spontaneity that guys believe is an attractive quality, Pennington said.

"And then there's what I call the 'old faithful' picture," she said. "It's that one picture that they love, and it's never current. I found the reason they keep going back to it is because they like the way they look in it."

This behavior, Pennington said, is called performance of identity.

"People want to be thought of in a particular way. We are all performing at all times, so we're conveying a particular identity to people in all instances," she said.

"What Facebook becomes is a way to craft that identity perfectly. No longer do we have to act it out in person and play that role to an extra degree, because now we're sitting at a computer and posting it and making it what we want it to be in an ideal situation. It then becomes an idealized self that we broadcast to our friends, strangers and the online world," Pennington said.

Pennington plans to continue exploring how users craft their identity online by next looking at the profiles of users 30 and over. In the few profiles she has already observed for that generation, she said the users have mostly posted material from their younger years when they were in their heyday.

Pennington is a May 2010 master's graduate in communication studies.

Rolling Hills To Have Wild Wheels With Wildlife

June 15, 2010 - On Sunday, June 20th, Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure is hosting its 9th Annual Father's Day Car Show. This year's event will feature 200 cars, trucks, and motorcycles in all makes and models. Entrants from all over the region will be judged in classes including Best of Show,

People's Choice, Participant's Choice, Best Ford, Best Mopar, Best GM, Best Muscle, Best Truck, Best Antique, and many more. 1st and 2nd place will be awarded in year classes for Stock and Modified. Dash plaques will also be awarded to all pre-registered entries. New judges this year

are from McPherson College Auto Restoration Department.

Registration information for the Father's Day Car Show is available online at www.rollinghillswildlife.com or by calling 785-827-9488 ext. 114. Entry fee is \$30 or \$15 each for two or more entries by the same car owner. Entries are limited to the first 200, and all entrants are encouraged to pre-register to ensure a spot at the show. Entry includes combo admission (zoo and wildlife museum) and coffee and cinnamon rolls for two. Registration and check-in is from 7:00 am to 9:00 am; with judging taking place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Awards will be presented at 3:30 pm.

The Father's Day Car Show at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure is open to the public. Park hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, seven days a week. Admission to the Zoo is \$10.95 for adults, \$9.95 for seniors (65+), \$5.95 for children (ages 3-12), and children under 3 are free. Guests can also purchase admission to the Wildlife Museum for \$3 more.

Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, a non-profit organization, features a world-class zoo, a state-of-the-art wildlife museum, full service catering, a conference center, and unique educational and volunteer opportunities and programs. For more information on The Father's Day Car Show or other special events and activities call 785-827-9488 or go online: www.rollinghillswildlife.com.

Fourth Of July Safety

The City of Manhattan Fire Department would like to remind citizens to use fireworks responsibly and enjoy a safe Fourth of July holiday.

Ryan Almes, Fire Marshal, says that an estimated 8,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for fireworks injuries each year in the United States. "About half of the injuries reported are burns to the hands, eyes, and head," says Almes, "Half of the victims are under the age of 15."

To keep safe, it is important to follow the City's basic fireworks regulations:

- Discharge is allowed July 1 through July 4 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. (midnight).
- Sales are allowed July 1 through July 4 at 12:00 A.M. (midnight).
- No discharge in streets, alleys, parks, or on public property.
- No throwing of fireworks.

Almes says citizens should only use legal fireworks, and do so with extreme caution. "Older children should be supervised, and younger children should not be allowed to play with fireworks. It is also important to read and follow all warnings and instructions."

Remember fire safety during both discharge and disposal of fireworks. Always keep water nearby and only place spent fireworks in non-combustible containers. It is estimated fireworks cause more than 30,000 fires each year in the United States.

Other important fireworks safety tips include:

- Sparklers, considered by many as "safe", burn at very high temperatures, can easily ignite clothing, and stay hot long after burning out. They are as dangerous as matches or lighters to children. Be sure to collect all burned out sparkler wires for disposal.
- Find alternative activities for younger children like glow sticks or snappers.
- Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close supervision. Never allow any running or horseplay with fireworks.
- Use lighters with a child resistant feature. Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Light fireworks outdoors, one at a time, on a clear, smooth, flat surface, away from houses, dry leaves or grass, or flammable materials.
- Keep water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on misfired or spent fireworks.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
- Be sure other people and pets are out of range.
- Never experiment with fireworks or ignite them in a glass or metal container. Do not attempt to make your own.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas. Store them in a dry, cool place out of reach of children.
- Read and follow all manufacturer's directions for the use of the fireworks.
- Dispose of all fireworks properly, placing them in a non-combustible container after wetting them thoroughly.

supervision. Never allow any running or horseplay with fireworks.

- Please contact the Manhattan Fire Department with any questions at 785-587-4504. City ordinances with full details concerning fireworks are available on the City's website, www.ci.manhattan.ks.us/fireworks.

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A Kansas Pastor With Guts

Thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people.. When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:



Joe Wright

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare..

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem....

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

Kansas Profile - Now That's Rural: Aaron Higbie - Santa Fe Trail Meats

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

The results are in. The final scores are tabulated at the national intercollegiate meats judging contest, and Kansas State University has the winning team. One member of that team is Aaron Higbie. Now fast forward to the present. Aaron's expertise in meats selection has continued to the point that he is operating his own meat processing business in rural Kansas.

Aaron Higbie is owner of Santa Fe Trail Meats in Overbrook, Kansas.

Aaron is originally from a farm near Williamsburg. He was active in 4-H and FFA and studied animal science at K-State. In 1992, he was a member of K-State's national championship meats judging team. He went on to get a master's degree in meat science and served as head coach of the livestock judging team and the livestock and meat animal evaluation team at LSU.

In 1999, Aaron and his new bride moved back to the farm in Kansas. As he considered marketing his home-raised beef and pork directly, he looked for a processing plant to utilize and found Santa Fe Trail Meats at Overbrook. He ultimately purchased the business in 2004.

The original part of the locker plant was built in the 1950s. The business, named Santa Fe Trail Meats, was established here in 1986 and expanded through the years.

Santa Fe Trail Meats' specialty is custom processing. The company offers a full range of custom meat processing services for beef, pork, lamb, goat, deer, buffalo, elk, and other game. One hunter even had an outing in Texas and



Ron Wilson

brought back a gazelle to be processed.

Santa Fe Trail Meats also offers both retail and wholesale products.

Many people who have their beef and pork processed here use the meat themselves, while others market theirs to other consumers at grocery stores or farmers markets.

The retail trade is conducted at Santa Fe Trail Meats' storefront facility at the plant in Overbrook. Customers can buy steaks, roasts, hamburger, patties, and fully cooked products like summer sausage, jerky, and smoked brisket, plus pork chops, roasts, smoked and cured products, and much more.

In 2009, Aaron initiated a catering business. Their niche is catering events of 50 to 100 people, or up to 300 for a whole hog roast in the smokehouse.

"It's a way to highlight our product and get it into people's mouths," Aaron said. "Let's say they go to a wedding and have some of our pulled pork and brisket. Once they try it, they'll want it in the future."

Aaron buys beef and pork from

local producers who meet his quality specifications, such as all grain fed, top quality, Angus and Angus-cross cattle. "If we start with a good product, it makes our job a lot easier," he said.

All processing is done in a fully inspected, state-of-the-art facility in downtown Overbrook. People travel for hours to come to Santa Fe Trail Meats. The community's slogan, which is prominently displayed around town, is Don't Overlook Overbrook. Overbrook is a town of 974 people. That's rural - but there's more. Aaron's original hometown of Williamsburg has a population of 351 people. Now, that's rural.

Aaron likes helping with 4-H and FFA events. "I enjoy that giving back. Lots of people helped me along the way," he said. His specialty is live meat animal evaluation. Because of his background, he can help young people understand the connection between a live animal and its ultimate use.

"I'm looking at the animal from the inside out," he said. That perspective led to not only a successful judging career, but success in the meat processing business as well.

For more information, go to www.santafetrailmeats.com.

The results are in. But today it's not the results of a meats judging contest, it is the reaction of a satisfied customer who is enjoying the savory, delicious cuts of beef and pork provided by Santa Fe Trail Meats. We commend Aaron Higbie and all those involved with Santa Fe Trail Meats for making a difference by putting their knowledge of the meat industry to work for consumers.

Does all this benefit rural Kansas? I think it's no contest.

Woods & Williams Join Frontier Credit

By BETSY MCCAUGHEY

Controversy is mounting over Dr. Donald Berwick, President Obama's nominee to run Medicare and Medicaid -- and for good reason. Berwick's writings reveal that he would make radical changes -- seniors beware.

Berwick laid out his "Triple Aim" plan in an article he co-authored in Health Affairs (May-June 2008), advocating widespread government use of the "medical home" model. The Congressional Budget Office says that's a version of HMO-style medicine, with a primary-care provider to oversee your access to costly services such as visits to specialists and diagnostic tests. But in Berwick's plan, many -- perhaps most -- primary-care providers would not be physicians.

Ever since Medicare was founded in 1965, seniors have been able to call any doctor who takes Medicare, get treatment and have the federal government pay. Not in the future.

The Obama health law will give Berwick wide latitude to make this change. Congress empowered the Health and Human Services secretary (Berwick's boss, if he's confirmed) to make vast changes in how care is delivered under Medicare, including setting up pilot programs -- such as medical homes -- and then expanding them nationwide.

In his Triple Aim plan, Berwick

laments that US health care is "designed to focus on the acute needs of individual patients." He argues for a different focus, social justice.

Instead of doctors making decisions autonomously in the interest of their own patients, he wants a nationwide plan allocating resources "to anticipate and shape patterns of care for important subgroups." These subgroups -- which can be defined by age, disease affliction or socio-economic status -- should be the "unit of concern," not the individual patient.

Will the elderly be a favored subgroup? Not under the Obama health law. An April 22 report by Medicare and Medicaid chief actuary Richard Foster shows that the law nearly doubles Medicaid rolls at a cost of \$410 billion over the next decade.

To pay for this, the law slashes future Medicare funding by \$525 billion over the same period, when 30 percent more people will enter Medicare as baby boomers age. In short, boomers will get less care than today's seniors.

Less care is Berwick's vision. In a speech marking the 60th birthday of the British National Health Service, he praised the NHS for deliberately creating scarcity: "You [the NHS] plan the supply; you aim a bit low; historically, you prefer slightly too little of a technology or service to much too much and then you search for care

bottlenecks and try to relieve them."

Berwick confessed, "I am a romantic about the NHS. I love it. All I have to do to rediscover the romance is to look at the health care in my own country." He praised the NHS for its central planning, frugality, wealth redistribution and rationing.

Berwick has won accolades for his "100,000 Lives Campaign," which encouraged hospitals to implement rules preventing infections, bed sores and medical errors. But he is an inappropriate choice to head Medicare.

A fervent ideologue, Berwick puts social engineering ahead of the individual patient's needs. In contrast, most doctors understand that their duty is to heal each patient who comes to them.

Betsy McCaughey is chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths and a former lieutenant governor of New York.

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Government Changes

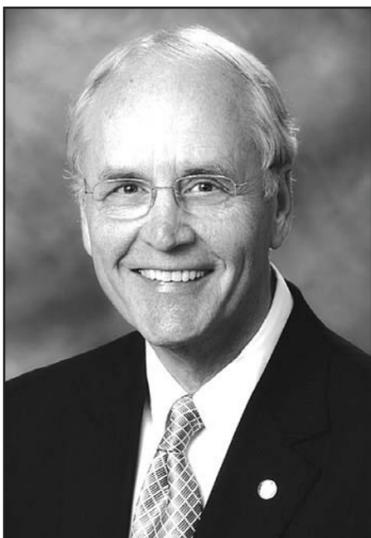
I've now been mayor for a year and city commissioner for three. And during that time people have often asked what I'd change if I somehow found the 'magic wand.' Okay, I'll play. Here are five changes to local government that I'd implement straight away.

1. I would fill the RCPD law board with elected officials only; more specifically, the city and county commissioners. Both have to levy taxes set by the law board's budget. That budgeting/levying process should be through elected not appointed officials. It is never appropriate to have non-elected officials setting taxes. And in effect that's what we have today.

2. Going one step further, I would collapse both the Riley County Health Department and the Riley County Police Department into local government, either the city or county. Probably put the health department in the county and the police in the city. These two institutions are far too detached from the voter. Governed by volunteer boards, their directors enjoy autonomy that too often brings into question their intentions. That's not fair, nor is it good governance. Both institutions should report directly to local government just like public works, parks, the fire department, and all the rest.

3. I would revisit our economic development process. Currently, economic development money often goes directly to companies enticing them to come to Manhattan. In recent testimony, a local expert claimed that 'cash rules.' Baloney! Cash rules when we make it the centerpiece of our economic development effort. Fact is we can't buy someone's loyalty. They should come here because it makes sense for them. That means the city and/or county offer fundamental reasons other than taxpayer dollars for their investment here, like being close to K-State, Ft. Riley, NBAF, NISTAC, access to labor, the prairie, our growing airport, or the like. I learned in business long ago that if the fundamentals aren't right the deal will fracture at some point. Economic development should be about lifting community standards not transferring wealth to a select few.

4. I would treat our hospital almost as a utility. We must safeguard this precious asset. Without Mercy Hospital, this town would have to depend on some sort of government arrangement that doesn't particu-



Bob Strawn

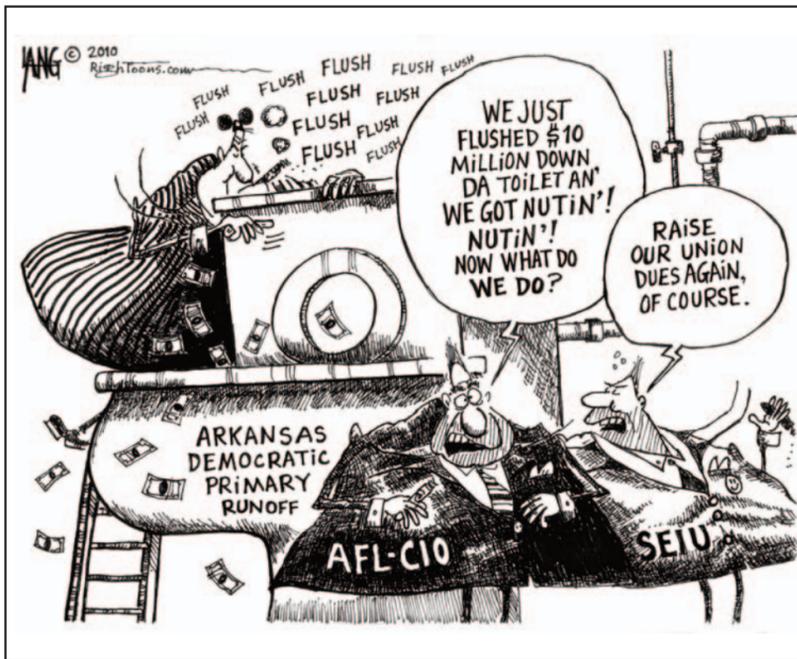
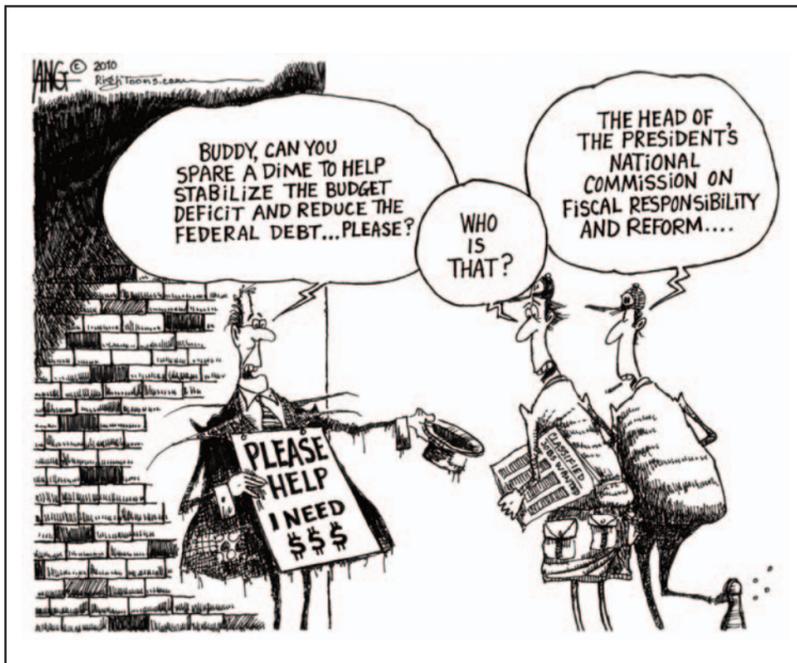
larly bring good vibes to Bob. So insuring the hospital's long term viability should be an important long term local objective.

5. And finally, I would put term limits on all elected offices. As elected officials, our problem is not only dealing with special interests that fund campaigns and often lobby for individual projects, but it's also about our relationship with and reliance on staff. As mayor, particularly, I was treated like some sort of celebrity. Almost daily staff would look after my every need, arranging my trips, requesting my presence, linking me with the noteworthy. Soon, even as independent as I am, at times I could feel my allegiance drifting to staff needs rather than those of the citizens I came here to serve. The only way to deal with that reality is through term limits. Two terms on any commission is plenty. My hats off to Ed Klimek and Mike Kearns for knowing when it was appropriate to step down.

So there you have it. Five opportunities to make government work for the people rather than for interests other than those it was established to serve.

Next week, my good friend, John Matta will fill this space. And I'll bet he puts some buzz to the Free Press.

Bob Strawn
Manhattan City Commissioner



"Conscience of Kansas"

Let's hear it for the girls! Women and the conservative movement

By Paul A. Ibbetson

We are currently watching the beginning of an American return to conservative values. What is unique about this return is that it is being led by an increasing number of politically savvy women. Political positions on almost all local, state, and national levels of government have been occupied by women for many years but the overwhelming majority have been filled by liberal Democrats. This is about to change.

Sparked by conservative women like Michele Bachmann, the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the state of Minnesota, the challenge for women of breaking the "glass ceiling" has been replaced with the reality of breaking the liberal female glass ceiling. Currently Republican Governor Jan Brewer of Arizona is locked in a stare down with President Barack Obama over SB 1070, which deals with illegal immigrants. It's no longer a question of separating the men from the boys, but more aptly the conservatives from the liberals, the strong from the weak. Jan Brewer is currently winning her stare down with the president, and Arizona's SB 1070 may in fact be a fundamental catalyst for securing the border in America's future.

Much praise must be given to Sarah Palin, who invigorated the nation with her conservative values and positive, enthusiastic vision for the country. The Palin phenomenon is still infectious today. What she also did by stepping onto the national stage was educate the nation about a woman's ability to govern and fight for core beliefs, and to do so without losing her humanity.

So what will this year's conservative women bring to the table for the primary races in 2010? Many of the Republican women who are poised to unseat longtime Democrats are tremendously successful business leaders from the private sector. Republican Carly Fiorina running for the Senate seat in California against Barbara Boxer is a former Chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP). California Republican Meg Whitman won her gubernatorial primary and is the former CEO of eBay Inc. Economically bankrupt California now has the opportunity to elect into high levels of political leadership two dynamic women who have been successful in business and know how to make a profit. Can I hear an "Amen!"

The conservative women of this year's midterm election will be propelled by the Tea Party movement. You know, that movement that Nancy Pelosi said doesn't really exist? The Vegas odds are that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will roll "snake eyes" in his attempt at re-election against Republican candidate Sharron Angle. Though we will never know for sure, the

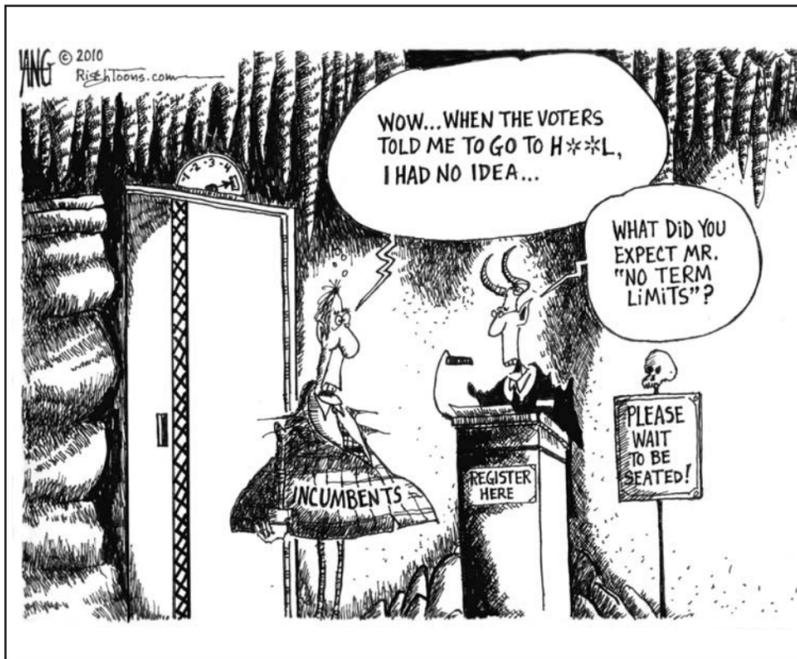


Paul A. Ibbetson

GOP's candidate in the primary race, Sue Lowden, would have most likely sent Reid home a loser, yes, another conservative, yes, another woman.

Additional Republicans challenging influential Senate seats include Jane Norton in Colorado, Linda McMahon in Connecticut and Kelly Ayotte in New Hampshire. When we look at these ladies of liberty, these women of worth, we see that their primary victories have been hinged upon their abilities to articulate the conservative message: limited government, controlled spending, adherence to the Constitution and traditional American values. What you do not hear from these conservatives is that they are victims of everything, or that they deserve the American people's votes because of who they are. Instead, they are taking the conservative route in their platforms, staying issue-driven and appealing to the American people with what they have already accomplished and how it will apply in their future service. As the country moves back to conservative values to survive as a nation, let us not forget that many of our champions will be wearing skirts. Let's hear it for the girls!

Paul A. Ibbetson is a former Chief of Police of Cherryvale, Kansas, and member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. Paul received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminal Justice at Wichita State University, and is currently completing his Ph.D. in Sociology at Kansas State University. Paul is the author of the books "Living Under The Patriot Act: Educating A Society" and "Feeding Lions: Sharing The Conservative Philosophy In A Politically Hostile World." Paul is also the radio host of the Kansas Broadcasting Association's 2008, 2009 and 2010 Entertainment Program of the Year, Conscience of Kansas airing on KSDB Manhattan 91.9 FM, www.ibbetsonusa.com. For interviews or questions, please contact him at? ibbetson91.9@gmail.com



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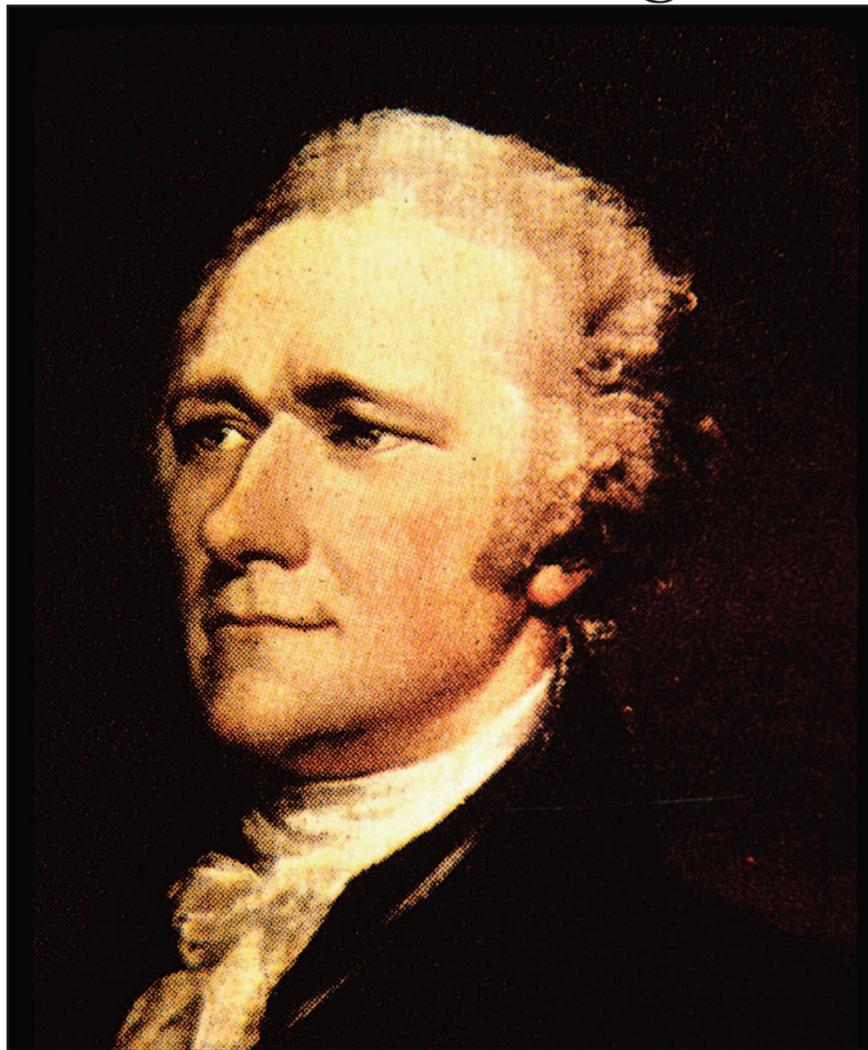
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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Alexander Hamilton

The Federalist Papers

The Federalist No. 1
Introduction
Independent Journal
Saturday, October 27, 1787
[Alexander Hamilton]
To the People of the State of New York:

AFTER an unequivocal experience of the inefficacy of the subsisting federal government, you are called upon to deliberate on a new Constitution for the United States of America. The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences nothing less than the existence of the UNION, the safety and welfare of the parts of which it is composed, the fate of an empire in many respects the most interesting in the world. It has been frequently remarked that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force. If there be any truth in the remark, the crisis at which we are arrived may with propriety be regarded as the era in which that decision is to

be made; and a wrong election of the part we shall act may, in this view, deserve to be considered as the general misfortune of mankind.

This idea will add the inducements of philanthropy to those of patriotism, to heighten the solicitude which all considerate and good men must feel for the event. Happy will it be if our choice should be directed by a judicious estimate of our true interests, unperplexed and unbiased by considerations not connected with the public good. But this is a thing more ardently to be wished than seriously to be expected. The plan offered to our deliberations affects too many particular interests, innovates upon too many local institutions, not to involve in its discussion a variety of objects foreign to its merits, and of views, passions and prejudices little favorable to the discovery of truth.

Among the most formidable of the obstacles which the new Constitution will have to encounter may readily be distinguished the obvious interest of a certain class of men in every State to resist all changes which may hazard a diminution of the power, emolument, and consequence of the offices they hold under the State

establishments; and the perverted ambition of another class of men, who will either hope to aggrandize themselves by the confusions of their country, or will flatter themselves with fairer prospects of elevation from the subdivision of the empire into several partial confederacies than from its union under one government.

It is not, however, my design to dwell upon observations of this nature. I am well aware that it would be indiscriminately to resolve indifferently the opposition of any set of men (merely because their situations might subject them to suspicion) into interested or ambitious views. Candor will oblige us to admit that even such men may be actuated by upright intentions; and it cannot be doubted that much of the opposition which has made its appearance, or may hereafter make its appearance, will spring from sources, blameless at least, if not respectable--the honest errors of minds led astray by preconceived jealousies and fears. So numerous indeed and so powerful are the causes which serve to give a false bias to the judgment, that we, upon many occasions, see wise and good men on the wrong as well as on the right side of questions of the first magni-

tude to society. This circumstance, if duly attended to, would furnish a lesson of moderation to those who are ever so much persuaded of their being in the right in any controversy. And a further reason for caution, in this respect, might be drawn from the reflection that we are not always sure that those who advocate the truth are influenced by purer principles than their antagonists. Ambition, avarice, personal animosity, party opposition, and many other motives not more laudable than these, are apt to operate as well upon those who support as those who oppose the right side of a question. Were there not even these inducements to moderation, nothing could be more ill-judged than that intolerant spirit which has, at all times, characterized political parties. For in politics, as in religion, it is equally absurd to aim at making proselytes by fire and sword. Heresies in either can rarely be cured by persecution.

And yet, however just these sentiments will be allowed to be, we have already sufficient indications that it will happen in this as in all former cases of great national discussion. A torrent of angry and malignant passions will be let loose. To judge from the conduct of the opposite parties, we shall be led to conclude that they will mutually hope to evince the justness of their opinions, and to increase the number of their converts by the loudness of their declamations and the bitterness of their invectives. An enlightened zeal for the energy and efficiency of government will be stigmatized as the offspring of a temper fond of despotic power and hostile to the principles of liberty. An over-scrupulous jealousy of danger to the rights of the people, which is more commonly the fault of the head than of the heart, will be represented as mere pretense and artifice, the stale bait for popularity at the expense of the public good. It will be forgotten, on the one hand, that jealousy is the usual concomitant of love, and that the noble enthusiasm of liberty is apt to be infected with a spirit of narrow and illiberal distrust. On the other hand, it will be equally forgotten that the vigor of government is essential to the security of liberty; that, in the contemplation of a sound and well-informed judgment, their interest can never be separated; and that a dangerous ambition more often lurks behind the specious mask of zeal for the rights of the people than under the forbidden appearance of zeal for the firmness and efficiency of government. History will teach us that the former has been found a much more certain road to the introduction of despotism than the latter, and that of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the greatest number have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the people; commencing demagogues, and ending tyrants.

In the course of the preceding observations, I have had an eye, my fellow-citizens, to putting you upon your guard against all attempts, from whatever quarter, to influence your decision in a matter

of the utmost moment to your welfare, by any impressions other than those which may result from the evidence of truth. You will, no doubt, at the same time, have collected from the general scope of them, that they proceed from a source not unfriendly to the new Constitution. Yes, my countrymen, I own to you that, after having given it an attentive consideration, I am clearly of opinion it is your interest to adopt it. I am convinced that this is the safest course for your liberty, your dignity, and your happiness. I affect not reserves which I do not feel. I will not amuse you with an appearance of deliberation when I have decided. I frankly acknowledge to you my convictions, and I will freely lay before you the reasons on which they are founded. The consciousness of good intentions disdains ambiguity. I shall not, however, multiply professions on this head. My motives must remain in the depository of my own breast. My arguments will be open to all, and may be judged of by all. They shall at least be offered in a spirit which will not disgrace the cause of truth.

I propose, in a series of papers, to discuss the following interesting particulars: -- The utility of the UNION to your political prosperity -- The insufficiency of the present Confederation to preserve that Union -- The necessity of a government at least equally energetic with the one proposed, to the attainment of this object -- The conformity of the proposed Constitution to the true principles of republican government -- Its analogy to your own state constitution -- and lastly, The additional security which its adoption will afford to the preservation of that species of government, to liberty, and to property.

In the progress of this discussion I shall endeavor to give a satisfactory answer to all the objections which shall have made their appearance, that may seem to have any claim to your attention.

It may perhaps be thought superfluous to offer arguments to prove the utility of the UNION, a point, no doubt, deeply engraved on the hearts of the great body of the people in every State, and one, which it may be imagined, has no adversaries. But the fact is, that we already hear it whispered in the private circles of those who oppose the new Constitution, that the thirteen States are of too great extent for any general system, and that we must of necessity resort to separate confederacies of distinct portions of the whole. This doctrine will, in all probability, be gradually propagated, till it has votaries enough to countenance an open avowal of it. For nothing can be more evident, to those who are able to take an enlarged view of the subject, than the alternative of an adoption of the new Constitution or a dismemberment of the Union. It will therefore be of use to begin by examining the advantages of that Union, the certain evils, and the probable dangers, to which every State will be exposed from its dissolution. This shall accordingly constitute the subject of my next address.

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The Gulf Spill, The Financial Crisis And Government Failure

By Gerald P. O'Driscoll Jr.
The Cato Institute

Gerald O'Driscoll is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. He was formerly vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and later a vice president at Citigroup.

The Gulf oil spill and the global financial crisis both demonstrate the failings of big government. Partisan politics obscures the linkage, with the consequence that each political party repeats the mistakes of the other as its turn to govern arrives.

First, consider the oil spill. BP and its contractors are surely responsible for the accident. They may also be responsible for a poor response. The nature and scope of legal culpability is yet to be determined. What is the government's role? Offshore drilling is a dangerous activity with potential undesirable consequences now actualized. For this reason, as we have learned, it is heavily regulated. The agency directly responsible for regulating the activity is the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the Department of the Interior.

Government regulation is intended to protect the public interest against bad or irresponsible behavior by private parties. In the case of offshore drilling, the federal government has assumed the role of solving a collective action problem. Potentially all Americans benefit from the drilling, but those living in coastal areas suffer disproportionate harm from mishaps. The government theoretically negotiates on their behalf and establishes rules to protect them.

The Gulf oil spill and the global financial crisis both demonstrate the failings of big government.

Obviously, regulation failed. By all accounts, MMS operated as a rubber stamp for BP. It is a striking example of regulatory capture: Agencies tasked with protecting the public interest come to identify with the regulated industry and protect its interests against that of the public. The result: Government fails to protect the public. That conclusion is precisely the same for the financial services industry.

Financial services have long

been subject to detailed regulation by multiple agencies. In his book on the financial crisis, Jimmy Stewart is Dead, Boston University Professor Laurence Kotlikoff counts over 115 regulatory agencies for financial services. If more hands in the pot helped, financial services would be in fine shape. Few believe such is the case.

Advocates of heavy regulation promise that risky behavior by banks can be controlled and limited by regulators. There are two major reasons such efforts fail. I have already discussed the first: regulatory capture.

The second source of regulatory failure is the knowledge problem identified by Nobel Laureate Friedrich Hayek. The knowledge required by regulators is dispersed throughout the industry and broader economy. For regulation to work, that dispersed knowledge must be centralized in the regulatory agency. To successfully accomplish this requires central planning of the industry, if not the economy. But the local knowledge of specific circumstances of time and place cannot be aggregated in one mind or agency. We know that is impossible, and that impossibility was the reason for the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the transformation of the Chinese economy.

Regulatory practice represents islands of central planning in otherwise decentralized market economies. If we add back in the problem of regulatory capture, then we get industries coddled and protected by government. When business and politics become intertwined we move from market economies to crony capitalism.

What is the missed lesson from all this? When President George W. Bush had his Katrina moment, the federal government's bumbling response was blamed on him, on the Republicans, and on conservatives. Now it is President Obama's turn. His administration's faltering response to the disaster in the Gulf is attributed to his personal failings, staff ineptitude, communication failures, etc. And, of course, the two administrations have shared responsibility for the poor handling of the financial crisis.

A big-government conservative

administration failed in crisis, as has a big-government liberal administration. The regulatory state did not prevent excessive risk taking whether in financial services, nor perhaps in offshore oil drilling. Government response to crises once they occur is slow and inept. All this is not because either Republicans or Democrats are in power, but because big government doesn't work. It can't deliver on its promises. Big government overpromises and underdelivers. In reaching to do more, big government accomplishes less. That is not an ideological statement, but an empirical observation.

In the case of financial services, virtually all the proposed regulatory reform offers more of the same. Additional regulations will be added to existing ones without addressing why existing ones failed to prevent the crisis. The same process will likely happen with respect to offshore drilling.

Einstein famously defined insanity as the belief that, if we repeatedly do the same thing, we will eventually get a different result. The response to the financial crisis, as to others, is policy insanity.

University of Chicago law professor Richard Epstein has observed that we need simple rules for a complex world. The complexity of rules is self-defeating, because that complexity requires more knowledge than can be acquired. Brazil has a simple rule for directors of failed banks: They are personally liable. That concentrates the mind of directors on reining in risk-taking by management more effectively than would creating a systemic-risk regulator.

The Obama administration and Congress propose more of the same failed approach to regulation. Instead they should heed Hayek, who observed that "the curious task of economics is to demonstrate to men how little they really know about what they imagine they can design."

Gerald O'Driscoll is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. He was formerly vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and later a vice president at Citigroup.

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is not suitable for children.

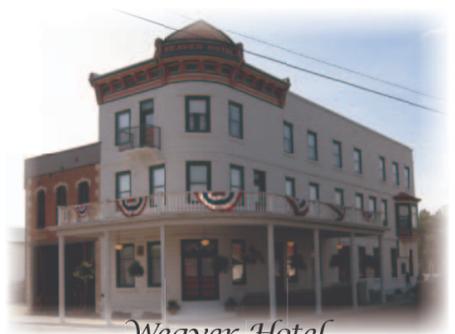
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American Power Act: Oil Spill Does Not Justify Wrecking the Economy

By Nicolas Loris
The Heritage Foundation

The Heritage Foundation President Obama recently used the Gulf oil spill to stress the need for Congress to pass cap and trade, specifically the bill introduced by Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) after much delay. The 987-page American Power Act (APA) aims to reduce 2005 levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 80 percent by 2050, the same target that the House version passed last year.

Despite promises of consumer protection, however, the economic effects are the same. APA aims to increase energy prices, which would kill jobs and protect large corporations at the expense of the consumer—all for a minimal effect on the earth's temperature.

Carbon Cuts Come with Significant Costs

The purpose of the bill is to drive energy prices high enough to reduce consumption. In effect, consumers would be forced to pay more for less energy. Higher energy costs would spread throughout the economy as producers everywhere try to cover their higher production costs by raising their product prices, further

That's The Brakes

By Jon A. Brake, Manhattan Free Press

I think as the Health Care Bill became known as "Obamacare", the "Cap and Trade" or The American Power Act will also get a new name. As gas and electric bills tripple and all other goods and services costs go higher and higher it will become know as "Obama-doesn't-care."

impacting consumers.

APA attempts to shield the economic pain from consumers by passing two-thirds of the carbon permit revenue back to the consumer through energy discounts or direct rebates. This leaves 33 percent of the revenue to go elsewhere. Regardless, these rebates would clearly not compensate for the higher energy prices that impact all the goods and services consumers purchase.

Cap and trade has macroeconomic effects that would do economic harm that no rebate check would cover. Higher prices lower consumer

demand, and the lower demand prevents higher prices from completely offsetting production cost increases. As a result, businesses must make production cuts and reduce labor. The Congressional Budget Office recently affirmed that job losses from a slower economy would outweigh those created by clean energy investments: "Job losses in the industries that shrink would lower employment more than job gains in other industries would increase employment, thereby raising the overall unemployment rate."

In the end, the economy would be trillions of dollars weaker with cli-

mate change legislation in place than without it, as Heritage Foundation analyses of past cap-and-trade bills have shown.

Growing Public Skepticism

Senator Kerry, after acknowledging that the bill is not perfect, said that "our planet cannot wait" to address climate change. The American public, however, can wait. Several recent polls have shown that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a far lower priority than economic growth.

Adding to the public's uncertainty is the controversy surrounding the validity of global warming concerns. Leaked e-mails from the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit revealed alleged conspiracy, exaggerated data, possibly illegal destruction and manipulation of data, and attempts to freeze out dissenting scientists from publishing their work in reputable journals. Furthermore, errors exposed in the IPCC report have only increased public skepticism.

Regardless, the benefits of the Kerry-Lieberman are almost nonexistent. According to an analysis by climatologist Paul C. Knappenberger, the global temperature reduction from APA would be .077 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050 and 0.200 degrees by 2100.

One critical reason for such a negligible environmental impact is that China, which emits more carbon than the U.S. and is increasing its emissions levels at a much faster rate, has no intentions of cutting back. India and other fast-developing nations have repeatedly made it clear that they would not slow down their own economic growth with carbon cutting measures.

A Special Interest Corporate Buyoff

APA's supporters sought to garner corporate buy-in from affected industries, which delayed introduction of the bill. In the bill's current form, even the companies that would be regulated and would see their costs increase (coal producers, oil companies, natural gas and electric utilities) stand to gain from the bill in the short run, which is why many of these industries publicly support it.

One reason for their support is the guaranteed windfall profits the companies would receive from the protections and handouts outlined in the legislation. The bill has a host of subsidies, tax credits, protections, and programs that benefit certain special interests at the rest of America's expense. Other industry representatives—particularly advocates of renewable energy—are calling for even more protection, such as the inclusion of a renewable electricity mandate. The fact that renewable electricity needs a mandate on top of carbon caps only accentuates the point that it is simply not cost com-

petitive.

The more the government becomes involved in decision making, the more lobbyists become involved. Kerry-Lieberman would be an unprecedented expansion of government control over the energy economy; therefore, it should be no surprise that corporations are actively lobbying against APA's cost increases to their bottom lines, but in reality, businesses would pass these cost increases on to the consumer. In other words, these companies have assured revenue increases from government handouts and protections, but the increased costs from carbon caps would be handed down to car drivers, homeowners, and small businesses.

Energy Independence Not the Right Policy Goal

Politicians on the Left and the Right have clamored to end America's addiction to foreign oil and achieve energy independence, and many have justified APA on these grounds. But achieving energy independence should not be a driver for any energy policy, especially not for a cap-and-trade system. It is nonsensical to think that the U.S. would benefit by denying itself its least expensive and most relied upon fuels. Doing so would result in fewer energy sources and less wealth for Americans. The U.S. gets 50 percent of its electricity from coal and relies on oil for transportation. Using a cap-and-trade scheme to replace these critical energy sources with more expensive, less abundant, and technologically precarious alternatives would seriously damage the U.S. economy.

Furthermore, the folly of such approaches is already clear. The ethanol mandate has proven to be costly and electric cars are much more expensive and rely heavily on government subsidies. When discussing the prospects of electric cars, one automaker CEO remarked, "We are negotiating with the U.S. government to make sure we have a reasonable return on our investments." The future might tell a different story for electric vehicles, but currently they cannot compete—even with lavish subsidies.

If It Walks Like a Duck

The American Power Act will be sold as an economic stimulus, a planet saver, and an answer to the conditions that led to the oil spill. But the only winners are the big corporations who managed to get a seat at the table when the bill was crafted. For the large majority of Americans who did not, the bill would have a negative net impact.

APA is a significant tax on energy that would reduce Americans' income, destroy jobs, and greatly shrink the economy. No amount of protections or rebates would save consumers from skyrocketing energy costs. And worst of all, there would be little environmental benefit to show for it.

Nicolas D. Loris is a Research Assistant in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

Financial Lessons from 1946

By Jason E. Taylor
The Cato Institute

Over the past two years nations around the world have engaged in the most stimulative fiscal policies ever seen, at least outside of wartime. Greece, the U.S., India and the United Kingdom, among others, currently have government deficits above 10% of GDP. The average deficit for all Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries is a staggering 8.2% of GDP. Of course, this is the classic "Keynesian" response to an economic downturn — when demand from the private sector falters, government must fill the gap to keep the economy from collapse.

Historically, the notion that massive deficits, such as those we've seen over the past two years, could help bring an economy back to full employment drew upon the experiences of the Great Depression and Second World War. Economies returned to full employment only after massive wartime deficits were deployed. To illustrate, in the U.S. deficits ranged between 21% and 27% of GDP between 1943 and 1945 (doubling the deficit-to-GDP ratio experienced today) and unemployment fell from around 14% in 1939 to around 2% during wartime.

Jason E. Taylor is professor of economics at Central Michigan University, president of the Economic and Business Historical Society and co-author of the study Stimulus by Spending Cuts: Lessons from 1946, Cato Policy Report (June 2010).

But does the economic experience of World War II really provide evidence in favor of Keynesian fiscal policy? In a paper published in the June 2010 issue of the Cato Policy Report,

Richard Vedder of Ohio University and I argue that the true economic lesson from the era lies in the experience of 1946, the year the wartime economic "stimulus" was dramatically unwound.

Keynesian economists of the day argued forcefully that if the government disbanded the army and stopped producing armaments, unemployment would rise back to Depression-era levels. Despite these protests, the government sent most soldiers home, canceled war contracts and removed wartime economic controls. Forecasts of economic Armageddon followed. In September 1945 forecasters predicted that the U.S. unemployment rate would rise to anywhere between 12% and 35%.

Despite these warnings government spending fell from \$84 billion in 1945 to under \$30 billion by 1946, and by 1947 the U.S. was running a budget surplus of close to 6% of GDP to pay off the debt it had accrued during the war. It was the "Great De-stimulus" — the largest and fastest turnaround from deficit to surplus in history. And here's the kicker: Despite widespread predictions to the contrary, unemployment remained under 4.5% between 1945 and 1948.

How did this happen? Labor markets adjusted quickly and efficiently once they were finally unfettered. Most economists today acknowledge that constant intervention during the 1930s, particularly on wages, extended the length and depth of the Great Depression. Certainly the employment situation in the postwar era was aided when some wartime workers voluntarily withdrew from the labor force and went back to school or to their prewar roles as housewives. But still, the data show that despite the huge withdrawal of government stimulus from the economy, civilian

employment grew by over 4 million between 1945 and 1947 at a time when Keynesian models forecast that it would drop like a stone.

The irony is that just three short years ago, Keynesian fiscal policy was considered an intellectual dead end. History (via a substantial body of empirical research) has shown that fiscal stimuli are a largely ineffective tonic for an ailing economy. If the lesson had not been fully learned by the 1990s, the experience of Japan during its "lost decade," when large deficits and massive government intervention lead to stagnation, seemed to throw dirt on the Keynesian corpse. The tombstone was then etched by Bill Clinton's Secretary of Treasury, Robert Rubin, who turned Keynesian economics on its head by claiming that surpluses, not deficits, stimulate the economy by keeping interest rates low.

Economists have long asserted that Keynesian fiscal policy is ineffective at creating jobs or boosting GDP because deficit spending "crowds out" private sector spending by eating up resources that would otherwise have been available. There simply are no free lunches. Of course, the counter to that is that the withdrawal of the government's fiscal shadow likewise need not mean job losses or lower GDP.

With deficit-reducing austerity measures currently being implemented across Europe — and at least under discussion in the U.S. — the lessons of 1946 provide some measure of comfort.

Jason E. Taylor is professor of economics at Central Michigan University, president of the Economic and Business Historical Society and co-author of the study Stimulus by Spending Cuts: Lessons from 1946, Cato Policy Report (June 2010).

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Governor, Regents, KU, K-State Issue Statements

By Kip Peterson

Today Gov. Parkinson, the Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State University, and the University of Kansas issued the following statements regarding this morning's announcement that the Big 12 Conference will remain intact:

Gov. Mark Parkinson: "This is great news to Kansas universities, student athletes, fans and our entire state. Today we solidify the future of the Big 12 Conference. In fact, we are in a better position than ever before. Chancellor Gray-Little, President Schulz and the Kansas Board of Regents provided outstanding leadership during this

process. It was my pleasure to answer their call for assistance, and I appreciate their continued commitment to the state."

Regents' Chair Jill Docking, of Wichita, and Vice Chair Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park: "We are delighted that an agreement to maintain the Big 12 Conference has been reached. Although there are a variety of details to be ironed out in the coming weeks, the strong commitment of the ten institutions involved ensures a bright future for the Big 12. The board certainly applauds the collaborative efforts of K-State and KU to preserve the conference. They share an intense rivalry on the field, which they

skillfully re-focused on this successful and cooperative effort. This outcome is a win-win for our universities, their students and alumni, and the state."

K-State President Kirk Schulz and K-State Athletics Director John Currie: "Obviously, we are buoyed by the commitments of our existing colleagues and league institutions to preserve the Big 12 Conference and its position as one of the nation's top leagues. This was a very important moment in the history of Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. We both saw the significant value of keeping the Big 12 intact and we worked together dili-

gently to help bring about this outcome. Together, we look forward to new levels of growth and opportunity in the conference. Our sincere appreciation goes to all of our league partners, and certainly Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe and his staff, for their hard work during this process."

KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and KU Athletics Director Lew Perkins: "The University of Kansas is excited about the bright future of the Big 12 Conference and its ability to provide long-term strength and vitality for the league and its members. The conference going forward offers schedule and

travel choices that exhibit a concern for the student-athlete, as well as maintaining the rivalries that mean so much to our fans. This outcome is a result of the hard work and collaboration of many people, including presidents, chancellors and athletics directors, as well as Commissioner Dan Beebe and leaders inside and outside Kansas. It was particularly gratifying to work with our friends at Kansas State, because while we may compete on the field, we both understand the importance of working together to advance the best interests of the State of Kansas."

Chuck Rice To Serve On UN's Climate Panel

By Steve Watson
KSU News Service

Kansas State University's Chuck Rice, university distinguished professor of agronomy, has been selected again to join other leading international scientists as part of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Rice has been chosen to become one of just two lead authors from the U.S. for the chapter on agriculture in the panel's upcoming Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change.

"This is a tremendous honor and responsibility," Rice said. "Being a lead author is a time-consuming task, but the stakes couldn't be higher. The discussions on climate change and policy debates are reaching a critical stage, and the outcome is crucial for agriculture. The best possible and most current scientific information is needed by policymakers worldwide as soon as possible."

The assessment report is expected to be released in 2014. Altogether, there will be 201 lead authors involved in writing the upcoming report; of which only 29 are from the U.S., including Rice.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the leading body for the assessment of climate change to provide the world with a

clear scientific view on the current state of climate change and its potential consequences. Thousands of scientists from around the world contribute to the work of the panel on a voluntary basis. The panel embodies a special opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision-makers.

In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was honored as co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for its Fourth Assessment Report, on which Rice served as an author.

Rice's research has been supported by more than \$15 million in grants from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Energy, National Science Foundation and others. He is director of the Consortium for Agricultural Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases. He has advised more than 30 graduate students and has more than 100 publications. He also is one of five team leaders for a \$20 million Kansas National Science Foundation EPSCoR project researching global climate change and renewable energy research. Rice is leading the group using climate modeling tactics to predict the effects of climate change and develop strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

In addition to his involvement in research and teaching in soil microbiology at K-State, Rice has been active with the Soil Science Society of America, where he is president-elect. He currently serves on the National Academies Board on Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force. He also chairs the Commission on Soils, Food Security and Public Health of the International Union of Soil Sciences, and he is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Accounting Program To Help High School Courses

By Katie Mayes
KSU News Service

Accounting is a dynamic profession that many believe is boring, rigid and uninteresting, according to Kansas State University accounting professor Dan Deines.

That negative stereotype, he said, has a lot to do with why high school students aren't properly introduced to the profession. The other part of the equation is the poor accounting curriculum found in high schools across the nation.

That's why Deines is spearheading a national effort to bring the nation's high school accounting curriculum up-to-date, so that prospective students get a real taste of what accounting might hold for them professionally.

"What we are trying to do is create a class that realistically captures the important work of accountants and that portrays accounting as a profession with great personal and professional opportunities," Deines said.

The effort began when Glenda Eichman, a K-State alum and accounting teacher at Manhattan High School, came to Deines to find out why her students couldn't earn academic credit from K-State. The answer had to do with the quality of the high school accounting class.

Deines decided to develop an advanced placement course to encourage college-bound students to consider accounting as a profession. He had found that most high school account-

ing classes were part of an outdated vocational curriculum and that college preparatory students were dissuaded from taking the class.

"The image is that if you are in that class, you are really not very bright," Deines said. "Or if you are bright and in there, you have some personal connection, like your Dad might be a certified public accountant."

When Deines contacted the College Board about starting an advanced placement accounting course, he was told that there was a moratorium on new courses. But he got the board to agree to consider a pilot accounting course.

Deines and Joseph Bittner, an accounting instructor at the University of Connecticut, began developing a rigorous, accounting curriculum that demonstrated how exciting accounting can be.

Bittner has been a certified public accountant and has taught accounting at both the collegiate and high school levels, which gives him a good sense of how best to bring the high school and college curricula together.

"Accounting is so much more than recording transactions and preparing financial reports," Bittner said. "If you look at the students who are taking accounting at the high school level, they aren't being exposed to what the profession is and what it entails. Those students who are high academic achievers never consider it as major or a career."



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